



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 08 September 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox announced that a Michigan inmate has been convicted of running a sophisticated identity theft scheme from prison which attempted to use stolen names and social security numbers to defraud Michigan taxpayers out of hundreds of thousands of state tax dollars. (See item [11](#))
- Aero–News reports that a Skywest flight bound for Salt Lake City was delayed three hours in Sioux Falls Wednesday to replace a pilot said by security forces to smell of alcohol. (See item [15](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) –

<http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 07, Associated Press* — **Nuclear courier accused of theft, fraud.** A former nuclear materials courier with top secret clearance was indicted Wednesday, September 7, on charges that he used his position to obtain restricted items and sell them over the Internet. Joe Allen Sizemore was charged with wire fraud, theft of government property, and possession of unregistered firearms, U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper announced. Sizemore worked as a nuclear materials courier for the Office of Secure Transportation under the Department of Energy (DOE) and was assigned to the Pantex Plant, a nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly facility near Amarillo. Couriers transport nuclear weapons and obtain body armor,

night scopes, and weaponry restricted to government and law-enforcement officials. They agree to return equipment the DOE that has been provided to them during their employment. From July 2003 until August 2005, Sizemore prepared purchase requests of restricted items on DOE letterhead and submitted them to his supervisors, who signed them, according to the indictment. After he received the items, he posted them for sale on the Internet, prosecutors say. Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uslatest/story/0.,-6063697,00.html>

2. *September 06, Associated Press* — **Murkowski drops pipeline session plans.** It will be up to a future governor to sign a contract for a \$25 billion North Slope natural gas pipeline to Canada. This past month Governor Frank Murkowski (R) lost his re-election bid, BP shut down part of the Prudhoe Bay oil field, and federal agents raided lawmakers' offices for their ties to an oil field services company. The effect of these events have effectively dashed Murkowski's hopes to deliver a fiscal contract with the state's largest oil companies that leads to a gas pipeline to Canada and then Midwestern markets.

Source: [http://www.webcenter11.com/news/state/story.aspx?content\\_id=c9ae2cdc-0a76-406f-937d-a7f1170eb746&rss=201](http://www.webcenter11.com/news/state/story.aspx?content_id=c9ae2cdc-0a76-406f-937d-a7f1170eb746&rss=201)

3. *September 06, Associated Press* — **Nuclear Regulatory Commission delays decision whether terror should factor in nuke plant license.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Wednesday, September 6, postponed deciding whether the threat of terrorism should be part of the license renewal review for New Jersey's Oyster Creek nuclear power plant. The state's Department of Environmental Protection has asked that the threat of terrorism be included in the license renewal consideration. Oyster Creek's operating license expires in April 2009. The state in making its request had cited a June ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In that decision, involving the storage of spent fuel at the Diablo Canyon power plant in California, the panel ruled that the NRC must consider the likelihood of a terrorist attack more seriously. The judiciary panel disagreed with the NRC's 2003 finding that an attack was "remote and speculative" and therefore unnecessary to consider.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj---oyster creek-terro0906sep06.0,2687145.story?coll=ny-region-apn ewjersey>

4. *September 06, Reuters* — **World Bank sees offgrid energy projects a boon.** Investments in offgrid energy generation projects are the quickest way to get electricity to the 1.6 billion people in the world without lights, a World Bank official said on Wednesday, September 6. The World Bank has invested about \$1.4 billion, or nearly three times as much as it had planned, in energy efficiency and renewable energy since 2004 from wind farms in Brazil to geothermal power in the Philippines. "We have been very aggressively moving on renewable energy and energy efficiency, but the least-cost solution is not always affordable because the cost can be high in remote areas," World Bank energy director Jamal Saghir said. While Africa adds about one gigawatt of generating capacity each year, China is adding that much every week, Saghir said.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=reutersE\\_dge&storyID=2006-09-06T232636Z\\_01\\_N06140107\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-ECO\\_NOMY-ENERGY-WORLDBANK.xml](http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=reutersE_dge&storyID=2006-09-06T232636Z_01_N06140107_RTRUKOC_0_US-ECO_NOMY-ENERGY-WORLDBANK.xml)

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

**5. *September 07, Post–Standard (NY)* — Chemical fumes force evacuation of YMCA.**

Improperly mixed pool chemicals released fumes Wednesday, September 6, at the East Area Family YMCA in Fayetteville, NY, forcing staff to evacuate hundreds of members. Fayetteville Fire Chief Larry Byrnes said someone mixed chlorine and muriatic acid, also known as hydrochloric acid, at the center's pool. The combination released fumes that caused several people to complain of difficulty breathing, burning eyes and scratchy noses. The YMCA remained closed Wednesday night.

Source: <http://www.syracuse.com/news/poststandard/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1157621230272260.xml&coll=1>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

**6. *September 07, Government Accountability Office* — GAO–06–800T: DoD Acquisitions: Contracting for Better Outcomes (Testimony).**

The Department of Defense's (DoD) spending on goods and services has grown significantly since fiscal year 2000 to well over \$250 billion annually. Prudence with taxpayer funds, widening deficits, and growing long-range fiscal challenges demand that DoD maximize its return on investment, while providing warfighters with the needed capabilities at the best value for the taxpayer. DoD needs to ensure that its funds are spent wisely. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) discusses (1) recent trends in DoD contracting activity and the environment in which this activity takes place, and (2) practices which undermine its ability to establish sound business arrangements, particularly those involving the selection and oversight of DoD's contractors and incentivizing their performance. GAO has identified DoD contract management as a high-risk area for more than decade. With awards to contractors large and growing, DoD will continue to be vulnerable to contracting fraud, waste or misuse of taxpayer dollars, and abuse.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06800thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-800T>

**7. *September 06, Government Accountability Office* — GAO–06–745: Force Structure: Army Needs to Provide DoD and Congress More Visibility Regarding Modular Force Capabilities and Implementation Plans (Report).**

Restructuring Army units from a division-based force to a modular brigade-based force will require an investment of over \$52 billion, according to the Army. The Government Accountability Office (GAO), under the Comptroller General's authority, assessed (1) the Army's progress and plans for equipping modular combat brigades, (2) progress made and challenges to managing personnel requirements of the modular force, and (3) the extent to which the Army has developed an approach for assessing the results of its modular conversions and the need for further changes to designs or implementation plans. GAO recommends that the Army develop and submit to Congress information about its modular force equipping strategy, personnel initiatives, and plans for assessing implementation progress. The Department of Defense generally agreed with three recommendations but disagreed to develop and provide to Congress risk assessments and evaluation plans. GAO added a matter for congressional consideration because it believes these

actions are needed to improve accountability and transparency.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06745high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-745>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *September 08, Websense Security Labs* — **Malicious Website/Malicious Code: Samsung Telecom site hosting crimeware.** Websense Security Labs has received reports that the Samsung Telecom Website is hosting malicious code. The site has been hosting a number of directories and files which, when downloaded and run, install malicious code on end-users' machines. The most current code, which is still available for download, is a Trojan Horse that attempts to disable anti-virus programs, modify registry keys, download additional files, and log keystrokes when connecting to banking Websites. Currently there is no exploit code on the Website that attempts to trigger a download of the file without user interaction. The site is hosting and most likely distributing files to users who are lured through Instant Messaging or e-mail links.  
Source: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=604>
9. *September 07, Register (UK)* — **Red alert over London on credit card fraud map.** A study by online fraud prevention firm Early Warning for Cardholder Not Present (CNP) fraud show that Greater London clocked up largest number of fraudulent transactions in the past year. Early Warning has produced a map that identifies the postcode areas from which the scammers operate, put together by tracking the delivery addresses for fraudulently obtained goods. Early Warning suggests the technique is the only reliable method for mapping credit card fraud. The system can assist retailers and other online traders with checking credit card orders against a database of known frauds. The firm has added a postcode-based risk assessment tool. It reports that the geographical spread of CNP fraud changes rapidly.  
Credit card fraud map: <http://www.early-warning.org/download/ukfraudmap2006.pdf>  
Source: [http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/09/07/credit\\_card\\_fraud\\_map/](http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2006/09/07/credit_card_fraud_map/)
10. *September 07, Finextra (UK)* — **Diebold releases branch-based fingerprint scanning system.** Diebold is releasing a biometric fingerprint scanning system designed to enable banks to authenticate the identity of customers at the branch counter. The IdentiCenter system links a customer's identity and account information to their unique fingerprint profile. Upon initiating a transaction at the branch counter, customers place their finger on an optical-scan fingerprint reader to verify their identity. The technology is designed to provide added protection for financial institutions and consumers against identity theft during branch-based financial transactions.  
Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15820>
11. *September 07, Michigan Attorney General* — **Michigan inmate runs identity theft scam from prison cell.** Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox announced that Dale Morris, an inmate at the Hiaawatha Correctional Facility, has been convicted of maintaining a sophisticated criminal enterprise that he orchestrated from his Michigan prison cell. The scheme involved the

attempted use of thousands of stolen names and social security numbers, including several hundred stolen from the St. John's Medical System in Detroit, to defraud Michigan taxpayers out of hundreds of thousands of state tax dollars. Morris fraudulently obtained Homestead Property Tax refunds that were intended for low income renters. While in prison, Morris' directed co-conspirators to file hundreds of false homestead property tax claims with the Michigan Department of Treasury. These fraudulent filings, which used stolen names and social security numbers, claimed to be low income renters in Detroit. Hundreds of Michigan Treasury check "refunds" were in the process of being sent to various addresses in Detroit, many of which were non-existent, but all had a change of address form filed with the U.S. Post Office directing the checks to a Livonia P.O. Box. U.S. postal carriers noticed the large number of Treasury checks going to the Livonia P.O. Box and alerted authorities.

Source: <http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-34739-150774--,00,ht ml>

12. *September 06, ElectricNews.net* — **High-tech crime forum to fight phishing.** Irish banks have responded to internet scams such as phishing by setting up the High-Tech Crime Forum to share information. Last month it emerged that a number of Bank of Ireland customers had lost hundreds of thousands of dollars through a fraudulent e-mail scam. Eight banks will work with the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation, the Irish Payment Services Organization, the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland, and the Department of Justice's Internet Advisory Bureau. This discussion forum replaces the previous system in which banks shared information on an informal basis. Educational campaigns will highlight the threat of online fraud to consumers, and the forum is pushing for clearer warnings about potential online crime on banking Websites as part of its aim to increase general public awareness. Police authorities involved in the forum will enable members to have access to the latest fraud and cyber crime developments worldwide from Europol and Interpol.

Source: <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/06092006/95/high-tech-crime-forum-f ight-phishing.html>

13. *September 06, BizTimes Daily (WI)* — **Members of Wisconsin credit unions warned of new phishing scam.** Several members of a Wisconsin credit union received an e-mail questionnaire recently that prompted them to "take part in a quick and easy five-question survey" and offered to credit \$100 to member accounts for doing so. Following the questions, members were prompted for personal information, including account numbers and passwords. The message appeared to be generated by the credit union's online services department, but it was not. Similar questionnaire scams have been reported by credit union members in Illinois and Minnesota.

Source: <http://www.biztimes.com/daily/2006/9/6/phishing-scam-targets -credit-union-members>

14. *September 06, Finextra (UK)* — **Wall Street banks, e-trading firms acquire majority stake in NSX.** The all-electronic National Stock Exchange (NSX) has confirmed that Wall Street banks Bear Stearns, Citigroup, Credit Suisse and Merrill Lynch, along with e-trading firms Bloomberg and Knight Capital, have acquired a majority equity stake in its business. Formerly formerly known as the Cincinnati Stock Exchange, the NSX was one of the first exchanges to switch to an all-electronic operation and replaced its physical trading floor with a completely automated market in 1980. The deal follows a number of other investments made by banks and brokers in regional U.S. exchanges which have come about amid rising concern that the dominant exchanges in the U.S. — Nyse and Nasdaq — could use their market power to raise



trading fees.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15816>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

15. *September 07, Aero–News* — **Skywest pilot escorted off plane after screener smelled alcohol.** A Skywest flight scheduled with 21 passengers bound for Salt Lake City, UT was delayed three hours in Sioux Falls, SD Wednesday, September 6 while the airline scrambled to replace one of the pilots. Officers boarded the aircraft and escorted the original pilot off the aircraft after security personnel said he smelled of alcohol. Skywest has placed the pilot on administrative leave pending an investigation.  
Source: <http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?ContentBlockID=83ad4717-2c7c-4d4e-bf66-837459ffe34a&>
16. *September 06, Associated Press* — **FAA approves first harness–type child safety device for use on commercial flights.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said on Wednesday, September 6 it has approved the first harness–type child safety device for use on commercial airline flights. The Cares device is designed for children weighing between 22 and 44 pounds but is not approved for use in automobiles. The FAA's approval will allow consumers to buy these harnesses for use on airlines  
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-09-06-faa-child- safety x.htm>
17. *September 06, Associated Press* — **United cleared to offer first U.S. commercial flight to Kuwait.** The State Department said Tuesday, September 5 that United Airlines has received approval to offer the first American flight from the U.S. to Kuwait City, starting in October. The airline previously announced it will offer non–stop service between Dulles International Airport and Kuwait City, with U.S. flights departing Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.  
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-09-06-kuwait-fli ghts x.htm>
18. *September 05, USA TODAY* — **Regional jet use stabilizing.** Welcome news for cramped business travelers: The surge in the use of small jets by U.S. airlines has leveled off. Regional jets, those with capacities of 32 to 100 passengers, will fly one–third the domestic flights this month, unchanged from a year ago, according to a USA TODAY analysis of schedules. Until now, regional jets had been capturing a growing share of domestic flying since 2000. Regional jets are expected to remain a key part of the U.S. aviation system on busy routes under 1,000 miles. But passengers can expect to start seeing more 70– and 100–seat jets that offer more comfortable rides on longer flights, says aviation consultant Douglas Abbey of the Velocity Group. Because the total number of domestic flights is down from September 2005, U.S. airlines will operate about 7,000 fewer domestic flights this month on regional jets, a decline of about three percent. It's the first yearly decline since U.S. airlines began earlier this decade to shift a big portion of flying to the small jets. "At this point, we probably have seen the peak" in 50–seat regional jet use, Abbey says.  
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-09-05-small-jets -usat x.htm>

19. *September 05, Associated Press* — **Cities encourage commuters to take to the water.** As congestion worsens on roadways, bridges and tunnels, more cities and states are turning to waterways as a potential way to alleviate tie-ups for commuters. The growing efforts to encourage more people to get out of their cars and take to the water include expanding ferry and water-taxi services, offering free passes for ferry rides, and developing quicker and easier ways for passengers to buy tickets. Commuting by water has its drawbacks. There can be logistical hassles like no service during the winter months and figuring out how to get from a ferry dock to the office. Commuters who take the water also aren't immune to high fuel prices since some ferry operators are adding small fuel surcharges to their tickets. While ticket prices for boat and ferry rides may be on par or even higher than other forms of public transportation, ferries can be faster and also often offer other perks like a view of the sea, wireless access, television sets, bars and comfortable seats. There is also evidence ferries may be safer.

Source: [http://cbs5.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_248123331.html](http://cbs5.com/topstories/local_story_248123331.html)

20. *September 05, CBC News (Canada)* — **Jewish man removed from airplane for praying.** Some fellow passengers are questioning why an Orthodox Jewish man was removed from an Air Canada Jazz flight in Montreal last week for praying. The man was a passenger on a September 1 flight from Montreal, Quebec, Canada to New York City when the incident happened. The crew had to act in the interest of the majority of passengers, said Air Canada Jazz spokeswoman Manon Stewart. Jewish leaders in Montreal criticized the move as insensitive, saying the flight attendants should have explained to the other passengers that the man was simply praying and doing no harm.

Source: [http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2006/09/05/qc-hasidi\\_cprayeronplane.html](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2006/09/05/qc-hasidi_cprayeronplane.html)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

21. *September 06, Tribune Star (IN)* — **Exercise tests response to biohazard incident at Indiana post office.** A terrorism scenario was played out Wednesday, September 6, to test the response capabilities of Wabash Valley, IN, emergency responders to a biohazard incident at a post office. During the drill, the U.S. Postal Service called 911 and alerted emergency personnel that the Biohazard Detection System alarm, installed at the post office, had gone off. The Biohazard Detection System is a fully contained, automated system designed to identify hazards in the mail such as anthrax. The goal was to test the communication system among all agencies. This was only the second test of its kind in Indiana.

Source: [http://www.tribstar.com/local/local\\_story\\_249232128.html](http://www.tribstar.com/local/local_story_249232128.html)

22. *September 01, DM News (NY)* — **FTC busts USPS job scam.** An operation accused of selling worthless prep materials for U.S. Postal Service (USPS) jobs that didn't exist will pay \$105,000 to settle Federal Trade Commission (FTC) charges that the scam violated federal law. The FTC charged that the operation misrepresented an affiliation with the USPS, the availability of postal jobs, and that a passing score on a postal entrance exam guaranteed applicants a job. The FTC alleged that the defendants — Jeffrey Charles Lord and his company, Job Resources Inc. — ran classified ads across the nation in employment guides and newspapers. The ads led consumers to believe that the defendants were hiring for postal jobs and were connected with, or endorsed by, the USPS, the FTC alleged. Consumers were charged a "registration fee" of

\$108.80.

Source: <http://www.dmnews.com/cms/dm-news/legal-privacy/38117.html>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

23. *September 07, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust found in South Carolina.** Soybean rust was found on leaves collected Tuesday, September 5, in a Florence County, SC, soybean sentinel plot. This is the third location and county in South Carolina known to be infected with rust this year; the 40th county in the U.S. Florence County is now the farthest north and east that soybean rust has been found this year.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=941>

24. *September 07, Telegraph (IL)* — **Grants to help secure ammonia tanks.** Illinois is taking the fight against methamphetamines to the manufacturing level with a grant program meant to heighten security and safety measures at anhydrous ammonia facilities. The pilot project was introduced Tuesday, September 5. Jim Larkin, of the state Department of Agriculture, said theft is a big problem in Illinois because anhydrous ammonia is used as a cheap fertilizer for farmland and plenty is available. There are about 787,300 tons of the chemical fertilizer in Illinois, as well as 26,000 storage tanks and 835 facilities, he said. Funding from the Illinois Department of Agriculture in FY 2007, in the amount of \$1,568,000, will be allocated to farmers and businesses that use anhydrous ammonia. The funds will go toward the purchase and installation of tank locking devices, security lights, cameras and more. The cost-share reimbursement program is in its first stage, covering 21 counties in west-central Illinois.

Source: [http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17162052&BRD=1719&PAG=461&dept\\_id=25271&rft=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17162052&BRD=1719&PAG=461&dept_id=25271&rft=6)

25. *September 06, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust found in Mississippi.** Jackson County, MS, has become the 39th county in the U.S. with soybean rust this year. Jackson is in far southeast Mississippi, adjacent to rust-infected Mobile and Baldwin counties in Alabama. The disease was present in an isolated area of the field. Infection was not heavy and was located extremely low in the canopy.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=940>

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## **Food Sector**

26. *September 06, Korea Times* — **Korea will lift ban on U.S. beef soon .** U.S. meat processing facilities have addressed South Korean concerns, raising the possibility that South Korea may lift its ban on American beef, a senior government official said Wednesday, September 6. In a press conference, Vice Agriculture Minister Park Haesang said a three-man team had visited the seven processing facilities that had problems related to meat cutting processes. Inspectors said all problems raised in the last visit in May have been addressed, the vice minister said. He said this increased the possibility that a panel, made up of government and private sector



experts and related interest groups, will agree to allow U.S. beef back into the country. Seoul has banned U.S. beef since December 2003 after a case of mad cow disease was reported. Seoul agreed earlier this year to resume U.S. beef imports, but temporarily suspended import proceedings for American beef after another mad cow case was reported in March.

Source: [http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/biz/200609/kt200609062022081\\_1910.htm](http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/biz/200609/kt200609062022081_1910.htm)

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## **Water Sector**

27. *September 05, Ohio State University* — **Water filtration technique removes algae toxins.** A water filtration technique that normally cleans up agricultural chemicals is also effective at removing a toxin secreted by algae found in lakes and rivers, an Ohio State University study has found. Engineers determined that the technique greatly outperformed other methods by removing at least 95 percent of a toxin secreted by Microcystis, a blue-green algae. Some water filtration plants around the country already use the technique, which couples activated carbon with membrane filters, said Hal Walker, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering. Microcystis is native to freshwater lakes and rivers around the country, and secretes toxins that can cause liver damage in animals including humans. Worsening environmental pollution in Lake Erie during the last decade has caused algal blooms, the most recent of which began this August. Some 13 million people rely on Lake Erie for their water supply, so Microcystis is a growing concern there, Walker said. But dangerous algal blooms have occurred across the country this summer, from Massachusetts to California. And while many water filtration plants are beginning to use high-tech ultrafiltration membranes with very fine holes to filter water, Microcystin toxins are small enough to slip through.

Source: <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/microtox.htm>

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## **Public Health Sector**

28. *September 07, Agence France-Presse* — **Indonesian bird flu death.** Indonesia has confirmed another person has died of bird flu. Indonesia's 47th fatality from the virus was a woman from South Sulawesi province, said Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari, adding that infected birds had been found dead in the same area. Supari gave no further details other than that the latest bird flu case had been first discovered on June 24. Runizar Roesin from the national Bird Flu Center said that the long time between the discovery of the case and the result of the testing was because the samples had not been specifically taken from the patient on suspicion of bird flu.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060907/hl\\_afp/healthfluindonesia\\_060907093044](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060907/hl_afp/healthfluindonesia_060907093044)

29. *September 07, Reuters* — **Trial of H5N1 vaccine effective in low doses.** Low doses of an experimental Chinese vaccine against the H5N1 bird flu virus produce an immune response in healthy people, according to early trial results reported on Thursday, September 7. The vaccine made by Beijing, China-based company contains a modified version of the whole virus plus an adjuvant to increase effectiveness. Results of the trial show it was effective and well tolerated at low doses. Dosage is important because if a small amount of vaccine is effective it will allow

more people to be vaccinated. Researchers gave 120 volunteers aged between 18–60 years old two doses of a placebo or the whole-virus vaccine in 1.25, 2.5, five or 10 microgram amounts plus the adjuvant aluminium hydroxide. All the vaccine doses produced an immune response after 56 days but the 10 microgram dose was the most effective. The researchers said the volunteers did not suffer any serious side effects but some experienced pain, swelling and fever. Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L06801120.htm>

30. *September 06, Reuters* — **Swans fitted with transmitters.** Outfitting swans with super-light Teflon backpacks containing solar-powered GPS satellite transmitters is the latest way scientists and researchers are trying to fight the spread of avian influenza. Ten whooper swans were captured in far eastern Mongolia, near the borders of Russia and China, by an international team of scientists in early August as part of a study to shed light on how wild birds may be involved in spreading bird flu. The whooper swans were chosen for the experiment because large numbers of the species have died in Mongolia and western China in the past two years. Tests verified that some of them were infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza. The H5 and H7 types of avian influenza cause very high death rates in poultry and are blamed for the vast majority of bird flu cases in humans, with the H5N1 bird flu strain killing an estimated 141 people. An international team of scientists will track the birds' migration routes to glean information to aid in the fight against bird flu.

Source: [http://reuters.myway.com/article/20060906/2006-09-06T232825Z\\_01\\_N06445719\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_NEWS-BIRDFLU-SWANS-DC.html](http://reuters.myway.com/article/20060906/2006-09-06T232825Z_01_N06445719_RTRIDST_0_NEWS-BIRDFLU-SWANS-DC.html)

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## **Government Sector**

31. *September 07, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-1099T: Improvements Needed to More Accurately Identify and Better Oversee Risky Projects Totaling Billions of Dollars (Testimony).** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) plays a key role in overseeing federal IT investments. OMB has developed several processes to help carry out its role. GAO was asked to summarize (1) the number of projects and the fiscal year 2007 dollar value of Management Watch List and high risk projects, (2) previously reported results on how these projects are identified and provided oversight, and (3) recommendations it made to improve these processes. GAO has made a number of recommendations to OMB, including directing agencies to improve the accuracy and reliability of exhibit 300 information and to consistently apply the high risk criteria defined by OMB. In addition, GAO recommended that the Director develop a single, aggregate list for both the Management Watch List and high risk projects to facilitate tracking progress, performing governmentwide analysis, and reporting the results to Congress. OMB generally disagreed with these recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d061099thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-1099T>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

32. *September 07, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Activity: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: At 5:00 a.m. EDT Thursday, September 7, the center of Tropical Storm Florence was located about 660 miles east northeast of the northern Leeward Islands, and 1,105 miles southeast of Bermuda. The official forecast will show strengthening and indicates that Florence could become a hurricane in the next day or so. Central and Eastern Pacific: Tropical Depression Kristy is located about 1,200 miles west of Baja, CA, poses no threat to U.S. interests. Western Pacific: Formation of a significant tropical cyclone is possible approximately 121 miles northeast of Wake Island. Winds in the area are estimated to be 23 to 28 mph, and moving northwestward at 15 mph. Wildfire Update: U.S. fires in 2006 are on a pace to break the United States 2005 record for acres burned by wildfires. The pace is 71 percent above the 10 year average for this time of the year. In 2006, more than 8.3 million acres have been burned so far, compared to the 8.6 million record acres scorched in 2005. To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm> Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat090706.shtm>
33. *September 06, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-618: Catastrophic Disasters: Enhanced Leadership, Capabilities, and Accountability Controls Will Improve the Effectiveness of the Nation's Preparedness, Response, and Recovery System (Report).** Hurricane Katrina was the largest, most destructive natural disaster in our nation's history. The problems experienced in responding to Katrina resulted in a number of investigations — by congressional committees, the White House Homeland Security Council, and others — regarding the preparations for and response to Katrina. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) assisted the congressional investigations and, under the Comptroller General's authority, initiated a number of Katrina-related reviews. In March 2006 testimony, GAO provided its preliminary observations to Congress. The purpose of this report is to summarize what went well and why, what did not go well and why, and what changes are needed to improve the nation's readiness to respond to a catastrophic disaster; and to identify selected issues associated with the Gulf Coast's recovery. This report is based on GAO's prior work on catastrophic disasters, including Hurricane Andrew in 1992, the over 30 GAO reports completed to date on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, ongoing GAO work, and other Hurricane Katrina reviews and lessons learned. This report includes six recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with which DHS generally agreed, describing actions taken to implement them. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06618high.pdf> Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-618>
34. *September 06, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-834: Disaster Relief: Governmentwide Framework Needed to Collect and Consolidate Information to Report on Billions in Federal Funding for the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes (Report).** Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region of the United States and caused billions of dollars in damage. Hurricanes Rita and Wilma further exacerbated damage to the region. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was tasked with the primary role of managing the federal relief and recovery efforts. This review was performed under the Comptroller General's authority because of widespread congressional interest in the response to this disaster. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined whether the federal government was adequately tracking and reporting on the

use of the funding provided in the four emergency supplemental appropriations acts enacted as of June 2006. GAO analyzed the emergency supplemental appropriations acts and conference reports, reviewed FEMA's required weekly reports, and interviewed federal agency officials. GAO makes four recommendations to DHS to improve the information on the status of hurricane relief funds provided in FEMA's weekly reports. GAO also recommends that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) take action to improve transparency and accountability regarding the status of hurricane-related funding at the governmentwide level. DHS and OMB concurred with the recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06834high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-834>

35. *September 06, Chicago Tribune* — **High-tech van is Chicago's latest weapon in disaster response.** Chicago Mayor Richard Daley on Wednesday, September 6, unveiled a component of the city's disaster response planning: a long-awaited high-tech emergency communications van that could take over if the city's 911 center were disabled. In lesser emergencies, the \$2 million vehicle will be used at incident sites to coordinate police, fire, and other responders, providing an immediate flow of information to those on the scene, officials said. The so-called Unified Response Vehicle is "unlike any other in the nation," Daley said. "Through satellite linkups, the van can receive 911 calls and then dispatch them to first responders, even when phone lines have been compromised."

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/custom/newsroom/chi-060906daley-van.1.6832127.story?coll=chi-news-hed>

36. *September 06, WHAS-TV Channel 11 (KY)* — **Louisville to rehearse large-scale emergency response.** A large-scale decontamination exercise will be staged Tuesday, September 12, in Louisville, KY. "This exercise will strengthen the working relationships among our hospitals and emergency agencies," said Mayor Jerry Abramson. Several city agencies and 25 area hospitals and health organizations from five Kentucky and Indiana counties will participate in the exercise, based on a mock scenario involving a chemical release to a large number of citizens. The hospitals will set up their operation centers and test their communications functions. Among the participants: Louisville Metro Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Medical Service, Health Department and Police Department.

Source: [http://www.whas11.com/news/local/stories/whas11\\_local\\_emergencyresponse.720c0464.html](http://www.whas11.com/news/local/stories/whas11_local_emergencyresponse.720c0464.html)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

37. *September 07, VNUNet* — **Microsoft and Cisco unveil joint security architecture.** Microsoft and Cisco have unveiled a joint security architecture to enable users of Windows Vista and the Longhorn server platform to stay secure when using Cisco networks. The initiative is intended to get Cisco's Network Admission Control (NAC) and Microsoft's Network Access Protection (NAP) to interoperate, so that external users connecting back to the network are verified and do not compromise security. Instead of Microsoft and Cisco customers facing a choice between NAP or NAC, they can now choose the components, infrastructure and technology from each to create a hybrid solution that is "guaranteed" to work. Zeus Kerravala, vice president of security

and networking research at Yankee Group, said: "This is exactly what is needed as businesses attempt to implement a network access control infrastructure to increase security amid an increasingly mobile workforce and an increasingly aggressive threat environment." Microsoft white paper: [http://download.microsoft.com/download/d/0/8/d08df717-d752-4fa2-a77a-ab29f0b29266/NAC-NAP\\_Whitepaper.pdf](http://download.microsoft.com/download/d/0/8/d08df717-d752-4fa2-a77a-ab29f0b29266/NAC-NAP_Whitepaper.pdf)  
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2163765/microsoft-cisco-join-forces>

**38. *September 07, CNET News* — Software vendors add tips to National Vulnerability**

**Database.** The National Vulnerability Database (NVD) on Thursday, September 7, expanded its security information offerings to include comments from software vendors about flaws in their products. NVD, which is designed to warn security software companies and the public about all known computer vulnerabilities, is adding a new twist to its year-old database. Software vendors, which previously were not allowed to post to the site, can now post their comments to the NVD site and distribute information over the NVD real-time feeds. "The purpose...of the statements is to explain how a vendor is, or is not, affected by a given vulnerability, or to add comments, or corrections, to the vulnerability details," said Mark Cox, head of Red Hat's Security Response Team.

National Vulnerability Database: <http://nvd.nist.gov/nvd.cfm>

Source: [http://news.com.com/Software+vendors+add+tips+to+flaws+database/2100-1002\\_3-6113232.html?tag=nefd.top](http://news.com.com/Software+vendors+add+tips+to+flaws+database/2100-1002_3-6113232.html?tag=nefd.top)

**39. *September 07, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-06-423: Offshoring: U.S. Semiconductor and Software Industries Increasingly Produce in China and India (Report).**

Much attention has focused on offshoring of information technology (IT) services overseas. "Offshoring" of services generally refers to an organization's purchase from other countries of services such as software programming that it previously produced or purchased domestically. IT manufacturing, notably semiconductor manufacturing, has a longer history of offshoring of manufacturing operations. Under the Comptroller General's authority to conduct evaluations on his own initiative, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) addressed the following questions: (1) How has offshoring in semiconductor manufacturing and software services developed over time? (2) What factors enabled the expansion of offshoring in these industries? (3) As these industries have become more global, what have been the trends in their U.S.-based activities? GAO makes no recommendations in this report. GAO provided copies of our draft report to the Departments of State and Commerce. The Department of State did not provide comments; the Department of Commerce agreed with GAO's findings.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06423high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-423>

**40. *September 06, CNET News* — Virginia court upholds anti-spam law.** The Virginia Court of Appeals upheld a state anti-spam law on Tuesday, September 5, by affirming the conviction of the first person in the United States to face prison time for spamming. Jeremy Jaynes was convicted in November 2004 of sending out bulk e-mails with disguised origins and being in possession of a stolen database of more than 84 million AOL subscribers' addresses. He was sentenced to nine years in prison.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Virginia+court+upholds+antispam+law/2100-7350\\_3-6112967.html?tag=nefd.top](http://news.com.com/Virginia+court+upholds+antispam+law/2100-7350_3-6112967.html?tag=nefd.top)



41. *September 04, eWeek* — **Microsoft "BrowserShield": Potential solution to zero-day browser exploits.** Microsoft researchers are experimenting with an automatic code zapper for the company's Internet Explorer (IE) Web browser. Researchers at the company have completed work on a prototype framework called BrowserShield that promises to allow IE to intercept and remove, on the fly, malicious code hidden on Web pages, instead showing users safe equivalents of those pages. The BrowserShield project — the brainchild of Helen Wang, a project leader in Microsoft Research's Systems & Networking Research Group — could one day even become Microsoft's answer to zero-day browser exploits such as the Windows Metafile attack that spread like wildfire in December 2005. "This can provide another layer of security, even on unpatched browsers," Wang said. "If a patch isn't available, a BrowserShield-enabled tool bar can be used to clean pages hosting malicious content." Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2011765,00.asp>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 4672 (eMule), 57715 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 65530 (WindowsMite), 139 (netbios-ssn), 113 (auth), 62641 (---), 135 (epmap), 25 (smtp)
Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center	
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at <a href="mailto:soc@us-cert.gov">soc@us-cert.gov</a> or visit their Website: <a href="http://www.us-cert.gov">www.us-cert.gov</a> .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <a href="https://www.it-isac.org/">https://www.it-isac.org/</a> .	

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## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

42. *September 06, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-934: Hurricane Katrina – Strategic Planning Needed to Guide Future Enhancements Beyond Interim Levee Repairs (Report).** Hurricane Katrina's storm surge and floodwaters breached levees and floodwalls causing billions of dollars of property damage, and more than 1,300 deaths. Under the Comptroller General's authority to conduct reviews on his own initiative, GAO reviewed the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) (1) progress in repairing damage to hurricane protection projects by June 1, 2006; (2) plans and estimated costs to make other repairs and complete five existing hurricane protection projects; and (3) plans and estimated costs to add enhancements and strengthen hurricane protection for the region. GAO recommends that the Corps develop a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan that incorporates all elements for rebuilding and strengthening the system to ensure that specified levels of protection are constructed in a cost-effective manner, within reasonable time frames. GAO also recommends that the Corps establish an independent task force to help support and guide its ongoing and future repair efforts. In its response for the Corps, the Department of Defense generally concurred with GAO's recommendations.
- Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06934high.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-934>

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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